

Application Serial No. 09/811,243  
Preliminary Amendment dated June 12, 2003

**Listing of Claims**

A'  
Claims 1-16 (cancelled, without prejudice)

17. (Original) A device for preventing breakage in a polymeric film or nonwoven web during stretching comprising:

a first interdigital roller;

a second interdigital roller, intersecting the first interdigitating roller, the intersection of said first and second interdigital roller serving to interdigitally stretch a length of the film or web along a plurality of lines across its width except in a substantially unstretched area of the film or web adjacent said lines along its length; and

at least one disc for contacting said film or web area and pressing said area into the first interdigital roller without substantially stretching the film or web in said area adjacent said lines during said interdigital stretching.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, further comprising at least one set of interengaging spaced rollers for creating the substantially unstretched area along the length of the film or web.

19. (Original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a bar for creating the substantially unstretched area along said length of film or web.

20. (Original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a member for creating the substantially unstretched area along said length of film or web

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selected from the group consisting of a folder, corrugater, furrower, gatherer, creaser, progressive roll former, and overlapper of said film or web.

21. (Original) A device for preventing breakage in a polymeric film or nonwoven fibrous web during stretching comprising:

a first interdigital roller;

A ( a second interdigital roller, intersecting the first interdigitating roller, the intersection of said first and second interdigital roller serving to interdigitally stretch a length of the film or web along a plurality of lines across its width except in a substantially unstretched area of the film or web adjacent said lines along its length; and

a controller for creating at least one substantially unstretched area along the length of the film or web adjacent said lines during said interdigital stretching.

22. (Original) The device of claim 21 comprising a plurality of said controllers.

23. (Original) The device of claim 21 further comprising a presser for forcing the substantially unstretched film or web area into the first interdigital roller.